

**METHODS AND DEVICES FOR PROVIDING A RELATIVE LEVEL OF
FAIRNESS AND QoS GUARANTEES TO WIRELESS LOCAL AREA
NETWORKS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0054] Problems associated with hidden nodes and overlapping
cells in Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs) are substantially
eliminated by only allowing non-interfering Access Points to transmit
during assigned slots of a contention-free period (CFP). The CFP is
5 broken up into a number of slots which are assigned to Access Points
based on the number of users associated with each Access Point. This
assures a relative level of fairness and a quality of service.